



VERBUM DEI
HIGH SCHOOL

October 23, 2013

Dear FCC,

I write to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance to my school because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my school's future bandwidth needs. I urge you to consider raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a principal in California, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country, especially as we look toward implementing a one-to-one tablet program.

At my school, we use digital learning to personalize learning, engage students, teach research skills, meet common core state standards, administer online assessments, and make data driven decisions. An example of digital learning at my school is the implementation of interim assessments this year. Many teachers have created online versions of their assessments, which allow them to analyze the results instantaneously to inform their planning and re-teaching of material in the weeks following the assessments. This leads to vastly improved student achievement.

My school network is currently just keeping up with demand, and the need for a high speed reliable network is only going to increase in the near future.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. O'Connell, Ed.D.
Principal